

MINUTES
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
February 17, 2016
City Council Chambers

A meeting of the Transportation Commission was called to order by Commission Chairman, Andrew Celentano, at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 17, 2016 in the Council Chambers at Woodstock City Hall.

A roll call was taken.

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: Caron Wenzel, Mark Indyke, and Chairman Andrew Celentano.

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT: Susan Hudson, Jason Osborne,

STAFF PRESENT: Public Works Director Jeff Van Landuyt and Chief Deputy Clerk Jane Howie

OTHERS PRESENT: None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion by Mark Indyke, second by Caron Wenzel to accept the January 20, 2016 Special Meeting Minutes as presented. Ayes: Mark Indyke, Caron Wenzel, Chairman Andrew Celentano. Nays: None. Absentees: Susan Hudson, Jason Osborne. Abstentions: None. Motion carried.

FLOOR DISCUSSION:

1. Public Comments: None.
2. Commission Comments

C. Wenzel said there's a crosswalk button on the stoplight pole on the corner of IL Route 31 and IL Route 120. The Commission members were pleased to hear about this and they would like some of these buttons installed in Woodstock, hopefully this spring.

A. Celentano said that he read that if IL Route 47 begins when IDOT says it will the project won't be completed until 2026. A. Celentano & J. Van Landuyt will meet with students in March to discuss projects. He talked to Steve Thompson; both A. Celentano and J. Van Landuyt will talk to Mr. Books of Project Lead the Way. It is believed that this project will move forward. The Commission needs to review the list of projects and make necessary changes..

Chairman Celentano said the Pavement Task Force is moving along well. City Engineer A. Wilson, J. Van Landuyt & A. Celantano are part of the Pavement Task Force. Recently, the group asked a gentleman from Cary to set up a meeting so they can get their communities together to save some money on similar projects. At the group's last meeting they were discussing sidewalks. A. Celentano said the Commission may want to add this to the Agenda for the next meeting so the members can discuss what can be

done. A. Celentano asked if snow removal is within the City's jurisdiction. J. Van Landuyt said the downtown area is in the City's jurisdiction.

TRANSMITTALS: (No discussion or action requested)

1. Streetwise – article from The Economist, September 5, 2015
2. Neighboring Communities – sidewalk snow removal:
C. Wenzel said it's a public endangerment that all sidewalks aren't shoveled and that people have to walk in the road on major streets. Possibly the City could shovel the major thoroughfares through the downtown for safety purposes. A. Celentano said this wouldn't help the people that are out walking for exercise or fitness though.
3. Self-driving electric bus begins testing on public roads – Metro Magazine, January 28, 2016:
A. Celentano talked about the minibus that travels at 15 MPH. Perhaps this bus could travel in its own lane, similar to a bicycle lane, so the bus doesn't slow down the regular traffic. A. Celentano believes something like this will become popular eventually. C. Wenzel talked about alternative technologies. The minibus would fall into this category. She asked, how would insurance companies deal with this? C. Wenzel said they would need to find a way for it to pay for itself and make sure it's productive. A. Celentano isn't sure there would be a way for it to pay for itself. It would mainly be the cost of the labor, ie, the bus driver. The Commission needs more information on this subject. Currently, there's not enough information available on the subject.
4. McHenry County pedestrian fatalities increase in 2015 – NW Herald, February 12, 2016:
A. Celentano was quoted in this article. In 2015 there were eighteen traffic fatalities in McHenry County; four of them were pedestrian deaths. It has become so difficult to cross the street in some areas that folks don't cross unless they absolutely must. C. Wenzel talked about her experience trying to cross Lake Avenue and the difficulty she encountered. She stressed the importance of having crosswalks installed and having pedestrian-controlled crosswalks.
5. Teen offers ideas for Fox Valley Mall, Beacon News

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Microbus – update
2. Pedestrian Crossings – Rt. 47 – Andrew Celentano
3. Rt. 47 Accident Information - WPD

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Sidewalk Snow Removal

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

1. Microbus: Add to the Agenda for March meeting.
2. Projects for Students – Discuss.

A. Celentano gave some project information to City Manager Roscoe Stelford. This list may be forwarded to the Economic Development Department and possibly to the Plan

Commission. C. Wenzel said the some school districts are opening up AP (Advanced Placement) classes so that more kids can take them, which will allow students to get through high school in 3 – 3 ½ year. These courses would give kids college credits and allow credits for holding an Internship. C. Wenzel believes this could definitely work in Woodstock, especially with MCC (McHenry County College) so close. A. Celentano believes the Commission will be pleasantly surprised when the high schools students make their presentation.

A. Celentano asked about what type of warrants are needed for IL Route 47 and Lake Avenue to get a pedestrian crossing. M. Indyke wanted to know what criteria is needed. A. Celentano talked about the increase in accidents that occurred over the past few years. C. Wenzel said there are a lot of accidents that occur under the bridge on IL Route 47. A. Celentano said that IDOT should put up a light where in areas where people cross the street the most to prevent accidents in these heavily traveled spots. C. Wenzel talked about fact finding; find out where accidents occurred. Find out if traffic was going too fast. Find out what the State of Illinois' policies are. Is there a legal precedence if the state doesn't allow a safe way to cross the street? C. Wenzel said that on a state road the vehicle has the right of way. What legal and/or policy issues does this cause? She said this is one of the reasons that Attorneys won't touch these subjects. Putting in crosswalks would be a great idea. IDOT should start by putting in some crosswalks, especially before they start building roundabouts. Then, there's a precedent. J. Van Landuyt said IDOT probably wouldn't install crosswalks because that defeats the purpose of the roundabouts, which is to keep traffic moving. In areas where there are crosswalks, the pedestrian has the right of way. On IL Route 47, the vehicle probably does have the right of way.

Celentano did some research on crosswalks and different types of lights. People across the world all have the same issues, but they each handle it a bit differently. The Commission needs to find a solution that is do-able. Solar powered lights, lines in the street where a person waves their hand so that they can cross the street. C. Wenzel said one might be able to do this on McConnell Road, but not on IL Route 47. On Lake Avenue, at Rte. 47, the City could install a crosswalk near O'Reilly Auto Parts. A bit further down from that area is where the crosswalk needs to be, before the roundabout. Crosswalks could be a solution south of Lake Avenue. A. Celantano said there is more commercial businesses between McConnell Road and County Club Road. This is where a crosswalk is needed, because there's more of a need to cross.

J. Van Landuyt said the City has to do everything according to IDOT's specifications. IDOT would probably allow the City to put a crosswalk on Irving Avenue, but the City has to pay the bill. A. Celentano said there are a lot of ideas that need to be reviewed. C. Wenzel suggested the Commission get more Accident Reports from the Police Department. A. Celentano said if the City does install crosswalks, there may be more risk for injury, because more people will be crossing.

A. Celentano asked J. Van Landuyt about the cost of road striping. IDOT probably won't approve just striping at Rte. 47 and Irving Avenue, across from Calhoun Street. The City

would have to forward any information to IDOT for approval. A. Celentano said if the road would have to be reconfigured, that would be a whole other issue. C. Wenzel asked if the Commission could add these items to the final plan; to require that these improvements are made. But, we'd have to wait at least another ten years. Further research would have to be done regarding demographic trends, losing population, homes in foreclosure, not everyone has a car, etc. This Commission is working on transportation issues, such as the bike path. Crosswalks should be put in as a recommendation, the goal. M. Indyke said this is essential. A. Celentano said if economic development increases in this area, on Rte. 47, the problem will grow. He sees homeless people walking in the area every day and crossing the highway. C. Wenzel sees a lot of people on bicycles, also. This is also an indicator. M. Indyke said his business's income is down, which reflects that people are still out of work. A. Celentano said there is a 79-page analysis from Florida on crosswalks. The article discusses the legal issues regarding signalized intersections, two lane vs four lane roads, which may require an island where people can stop; which adds more time and money to the process. In the future there could be increased residential growth along IL Route 47; multi-uses zoning / buildings. Someone has to look at the impact these types of changes would cause. With any kind of new construction, pedestrian ways are required, as well as turn-lanes. Or walkways similar to those at Walmart or Kohl's they have painted areas. A. Celentano asked the Commission members if they'd like him to continue researching these items. M. Indyke would like to know the criteria from IDOT. A. Celentano said they should stay with the striping, this would be more reasonable. C. Wenzel said the Commission needs more information on accidents. The current report only lists accidents on IL Route 47, which was the request from last month's meeting. A. Celentano would like a report of accidents on IL Route 47 between IL Route 14 heading north to Irving Avenue. C. Wenzel said this research is necessary to assist in decision making. M. Indyke requested a copy of the project list.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by C. Wenzel, second by M. Indyke to adjourn the Special Meeting of the Transportation Commission. Ayes: Caron Wenzel, Mark Indyke, Chairman A. Celentano. Nays: None. Absentees: Susan Hudson, Jason Osborne. Abstentions: None. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.

The next Regular Meeting of the Transportation Commission will meet on March 16, 2016 at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Howie
Chief Deputy Clerk